

## Sample Road Finally Open

The quarter mile strip of improved concrete road, which is being built from the Stam corner, on the Flat River road, has been finally opened to travel, after having been closed for almost four months, causing the heavy traffic over such road to detour, at considerable inconvenience. Only about half of the strip has yet been hard surfaced, but owing to scarcity of material, as well as weather conditions, it was thought to be advisable to postpone further work until spring, and open the road for the convenience of the general public.

The section that has been completed indicates that it is in every way satisfactory, and that it will "stand up" under the most severe test that can be given it. It is a forcible illustration of the splendid conditions that would result were all the principal roads in the county constructed in such manner. It would eliminate the word "trouble" from travel, and substitute therefor the word "pleasure." Of course such roads are expensive. And yet, when one considers the quality of the road, as well as the moderate upkeep, together with the service such roads would render to the public, the question naturally arises whether or not such high class roads really are expensive or not.

In the case of the building of this road, however, conditions have been most unfortunate, owing to the extreme difficulty encountered in getting cement and other material. Such conditions have caused this work to draw along in an unprecedented manner, so that, as a sample piece of roadwork, for which this was intended, it fails to make nearly the good public impression that its prompt completion would have made. It is a fact, however, that with workmen and material at hand, such a road can be constructed almost as rapidly as can any other kind of improved roadway. The principal consideration is: There is the roadway for your inspection. Do you want more of this kind of roadway in St. Francois county? If so, the opportunity to secure it will be presented to you, ere long.

Mrs. Albert Trauernicht went to St. Louis Sunday for a visit with her sons, George and Walter, who are living there.

W. T. Apple, a prominent business man of Baxter Springs, Kansas, came in Friday for a visit with his friend, J. C. Watson. Mr. Apple and Mr. Watson left Saturday evening for New Orleans on a business mission.

## Importance of Newspapers

State Hospital No. 4, at Farmington, has instituted a department of occupational therapy, and the Medical Staff have decided that one of the most interesting and beneficial services that can be rendered patients by their relatives and friends is to send them, each week, their local

newspaper. The Superintendent has recently and generally advised relatives and friends of patients that local papers are not only educational and instructive, but most beneficial to the mentally ill in that institution.

The results are that patients and wards are now abundantly supplied with weekly newspapers and current literature.

Mrs. Alice Patton, of Ironton, spent the week-end with her daughter, Miss Allie Patton.

## THE TORMENTOR



## \$100 a Month Thrown Away

An age of conservation is just now dawning. This is an age in the world's history when profligacy of every description is beginning to be frowned upon as it never was before in years that have passed. The period for conservation is here—and here to stay—for some time, at least. With such a period of conservation at hand, it is embarrassing—almost humiliating—when one considers the waste that is made necessary to keep up the light and water plant of this city.

When that plant was installed, now something near twenty years ago, there may have been some tangible excuse for failure to properly equip that plant in order that its upkeep should be held down to the minimum. But in these days there could be no plausible excuse for such a grave oversight. While it was doubtless generally considered as an excellently managed piece of high finance at the time the project was brought to completion, such a plan would now fall of its own weight until more perfect plans had been arranged for its upkeep and operation.

As stated in the heading of this article, there is now being absolutely wasted by the city practically \$100 every month of the tax-payers' money for the hauling of coal to keep the municipal power plant in fuel. For this snug sum, which soon runs into thousands, the tax-payers of this city fail to receive the least benefit whatsoever. Therefore such amount is absolutely wasted, so far as the tax-payers are concerned.

For approximately twenty years that this plant has been in operation, then, there has been dissipated in this manner \$20,000 that could have been saved for the city had proper arrangements been made when the plant was installed for the conserving of expense. The remedy at that time would perhaps have been as easy to apply as it appears to be at this time, though doubtless little or no attention was given it at that time.

But now, as the spirit of conservation is becoming more and more manifest, it is becoming plainer each day, to a constantly increasing number of citizens, that this grave oversight of nearly twenty years ago, should be corrected—that the longer it is permitted to continue in the old way, the heavier will be the burden on the people of this city.

The way to correct and further avoid this heavy and useless expense is so self-evident as to make further explanation of this discrepancy seem altogether useless. But, for fear that some may not yet see the way to cut out this useless—senseless—waste, The Times will say that the remedy lies in building a switch from the electric line to the power plant, so that coal cars can be switched directly to the power plant.

Citizens of Farmington, what do you think of the idea? It is for you to decide, and it is you who must pay the bills for running the power plant. Do you care to save \$100 a month, as well as considerable wastage from loading coal, hauling half a mile or more, and unloading same, to say nothing of the wear and tear on the streets resulting from such service.

It is up to the citizens of Farmington to make their wants known in this matter. The Times would be pleased to hear from any who may have views to express in this matter.

## An Apt Reply

A prominent Republican of this city was the other day attempting to "jolly" an equally prominent Democrat. The Republican went on, at considerable length, to the effect that the Democrat would now have to confine his reading to the Globe-Democrat, or some other good Republican paper, since the Republic has been forced to go out of business; that everywhere now tended toward Republicanism, and that his friend would have to change his politics after he had imbibed more of the principles of truth through perusal of the columns of the Globe-Democrat.

The Democrat, however, was of the old-fashioned sort—not to be intimidated—nor did the "camouflage" put up by the Republican prove disconcerting to him. He asked the Republican what his party stood for now, other than "criticism" of the Democratic administration. "Does the Republican party oppose the League of Nations," was asked; "or does it still want a high protective tariff?" Both of these questions the Republican answered in the negative, though he appeared to be unable to state what his party is in favor of. Then the Democrat evidently hit the nail on the head when he said: "The Republican party at this time appears to be principally composed of camouflage." And then he added: "As to my reading matter, I can make out with what The Farmington Times has to offer along political lines, until I can secure a metropolitan Democratic daily."

## CHRISTMAS VACATION

DEC. 24th to JAN. 5th

The Christmas vacation of the Farmington Public Schools this year will be of a week and one-half duration. School will close at noon on Wednesday, Dec. 24th, and will not re-open until Monday, January 5th. Several of the teachers and pupils are planning to spend the period visiting relatives and friends out of town.

Dr. and Mrs. O. A. Smith were visitors in St. Louis the first of the week.

## I. J. Shaner Will Broken

The will of I. J. Shaner, by the verdict of the jury, was broken on last Friday.

I. J. Shaner was known throughout this and surrounding counties; he was only 36 inches tall and weighed less than 100 pounds. Yet he, through the years, managed to accumulate about \$15,000.

On the 28th day of February, 1919, I. J. Shaner was taken ill with a deep cold, influenza soon developed, and from this pneumonia resulted within a few days. His attending physician told his nurse and his brother, George Fisher Shaner, that the little fellow was seriously ill from the start, and would not likely recover. Upon receiving this information, Fisher Shaner asked one of the nurses to suggest to the sick man that he should make a will; this the patient decided to do. Between eleven and twelve o'clock on Sunday, March 9, 1919, the attending physician told the nurse and Fisher Shaner that I. J. Shaner was in a dying condition, that he would not live over twelve hours, in his opinion, and that death might occur at any time. While all others were out to dinner, Fisher Shaner procured a tablet and wrote down the disposition of his property, making George Fisher Shaner executor of the will, without bond, and gave him more than one-half of the property. He then sent for L. W. Garrett, cashier of the Citizens Bank of Desloge, who took this memorandum and embodied it into the legal form for a will. I. J. Shaner died at 4:57 a. m. on Monday, March 10, 1919.

The jury "broke the will" on the ground of undue influence exercised by George Fisher Shaner, chief beneficiary and executor of the will.

The case was stubbornly contested for two days, and created considerable local interest.

The contestants were represented by Benj. H. Marbury of Farmington, O. L. Munger of Piedmont, and E. C. Edgar of DeSoto; the testestees were represented by James C. Shaner of St. Louis and B. H. Boyer of Farmington.

The testestees have filed their motion for a new trial, and will appear their case to the Supreme Court.

## Asks Judgment On Pleadings

In the case of the State ex rel W. E. Coffey vs. W. A. Mitchell et al., the Prosecuting Attorney has asked for judgment on the pleadings in the case. This is the suit that Prosecuting Attorney Coffey instituted against the St. Francois County Judges for "money wrongfully paid out." The County Judges employed counsel to prosecute the collection of approximately \$100,000 of delinquent taxes from the lead companies of this county, and issued said counsel a county warrant for \$500 "expense money" to be used in necessary proceedings in such suit.

In granting such "expense money" to special counsel, the Prosecuting Attorney claims that the County Court Judges exceeded their authority. Just what nature of proceedings should have been followed by the County Court, in an effort to collect such delinquent taxes, is not stated, being "wholly unnecessary," it seems. The proceedings in this case are being closely watched by many taxpayers throughout the county. Tomorrow, the 13th inst., is the date set for the motion for judgment to be passed on by Judge Huck.

## Mail Christmas Packages Early

Postmaster Smith has been calling attention of patrons of his office, by personal notice and otherwise, to the fact that Christmas packages and parcels should be mailed early, in order to avoid disappointment in their possible failure to be delivered on time. When most of such business is delayed until the last possible hour, as has often been the general practice in years past, it is altogether reasonable to suppose that some of it will be delayed somewhat in delivery in the great rush of Christmas business. Therefore if you desire to avoid a possible delay in your package reaching its recipient in time to add its Christmas joy, then it is up to you to mail it in ample time to avoid the rush.

In his notices, Postmaster Smith calls attention to the fact that the coal strike has caused a reduction of train service on some of the railroads, with a consequent jamming and mixing up of the mail service. If your parcel contains a Christmas present, then the marking of it "Do not open until Christmas", should cause its recipient to act accordingly.

## Smith Out On Bond

Ed. Smith, who was sentenced to fifteen years in the penitentiary at the present term of Circuit Court for the killing of Raymond Albough at the former's home in Leadwood in September last, was admitted to a \$5,000 bail Monday, pending an appeal of his case to the Supreme Court.

When the thumb-screws of the law were loosened, and Smith was given his freedom, he appeared to be the happiest man in all the world, and went about the court room shaking hands with many. The bond given is perfectly good for the amount prescribed. The Times is informed.

## County Editors Hold Meeting

Saturday evening the News and Times editors motored to Bonne Terre to attend a meeting of editors of St. Francois county. The meeting was arranged for by I. L. Page, editor of the Bonne Terre Star, through whose courtesy and interest in the welfare of the craft every arrangement had been perfected for what proved to be an exceedingly enjoyable, interesting and instructive meeting.

When the invited guests had arrived, they were ushered into the dining room of the Commercial Hotel, where a dinner was served that spoke volumes for the hospitality of the enterprising proprietor, Mr. Spence, and his corps of able assistants. Speaking only for himself, The Times editor, is free to admit that it was one of the most appetizing and enjoyable dinners he has recently been privileged to set down to.

The principal guest of the occasion was R. W. Van Valer, representing the Ben Franklin Club of St. Louis. After dinner the party adjourned to the hotel parlor, where all were instructed and entertained by Mr. Van Valer, who proved to be a cost expert, who really understands and who tangibly explained the intricate cost system to such an extent that all present carried away with them many improved business ideas.

One result of the meeting was that all present were compelled to admit that they had been standing in their own light in regard to keeping their business on a paying basis—that in many instances the prices they had been charging for job work, as well as for advertising, left them with a deficit, instead of a profit. The consequence was that a movement was launched before the meeting adjourned to establish a new schedule of prices, in which all present heartily agreed to join.

The fact was clearly brought out—and pressed home—that a crisis is now facing the newspaper business of the country. Therefore the one thing left for those who expect to continue in such industry is organization. In furtherance of this idea, it was decided to have a similar meeting in Farmington early in January next, when it is expected that a working organization of newspaper publishers will be perfected in St. Francois county.

## State Hospital Barn Burned

A fire of unknown origin was discovered in the horse and cow barn at State Hospital No. 4, about six o'clock Wednesday morning. All the livestock was promptly removed from the burning building, but the barn, hay and grain contents were destroyed.

The building was insured for \$2,500 and the contents for \$1,000. The State will suffer but little, if any, financial loss. Within one hour after the fire, ten employees and carpenters were busy constructing temporary sheds for the live stock for the winter. The hospital fire department were promptly at the fire, and with the vigorous and intelligent use of the three-inch hose at their command, the adjoining silos and contents were saved.

Dr. and Mrs. O. A. Smith were visitors in St. Louis the first of the week.

**40,000  
Pounds  
of Fine  
Fresh  
Candies  
of All Kinds**

**ExtraSpecial  
Candy Bargains**

For the last three months we have been placing orders for candies—twice as much as we actually need—with several different candy factories. We did not expect to get one-third of this, but fortunately, for the last ten days, we have been receiving all the candies we ordered—hundreds of pails, boxes and cases of Fresh, Fine Candies, made especially for

## SUNDY'S CANDY KITCHEN.

And we are offering these candies, at special prices to all—dealers, committees, schools, churches, institutions, and individuals. Prices and kind of candies plainly marked.

An excellent Christmas gift to family, mother, father, brother, sister, sweetheart, or any one — A BOX OF CANDY FROM SUNDY'S. All like good candy—young and old.

We have boxes, from 1-2 to 10-pound sizes, filled with assorted candies and chocolates. Come in and see our variety. Buy your candy now and we'll deliver it the day you want it.

We sell Wholesale and Retail.

**Sundy's Candy Kitchen**  
Farmington, Mo.